

In the outstanding communication the Examiner acknowledges that claim 23 is generic. After careful examination Applicant submits that in addition to claim 23, claims 24-31, 34, 35 and 44 are also generic. The Examiner's acknowledgement that these additional claims are also generic is requested in the next communication. Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Any search of the Clamping System is certain to include a search of the other, as well as a combination of the two. Accordingly, no additional burden would be placed on the Patent Office in searching all of the denoted groups together. By contrast, a very great burden will be placed on Applicant if this restriction/election requirement is maintained. Applicant will be subjected to several times the cost and effort in prosecuting several patent applications for an invention that should have been included in one, and will also be subjected to the continuing expense of maintaining several patents, whereas only one should be required to cover the full invention.

In addition, an additional burden will be placed on the public, in that the full scope of Applicant's invention will not be ascertainable from a single patent, and the public will have to find and study several patents to ascertain the full scope of Applicant's exclusive rights.

Applicant requests that the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the restriction/election requirement. An early notice that the restriction/election requirement has been reconsidered and withdrawn is earnestly solicited.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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